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Student Profile



YCLA Student Daydrin Williams Gains New Perspective in Ghana

For two weeks YCLA student Daydrin Williams woke up to roosters crowing and a view of the Atlantic Ocean. One of five Chicago high school students in the Sankofa Youth Enrichment Program, Daydrin was in Ghana to experience its diverse cultures and deliver educational supplies to orphan youth.

The trip was Daydrin's first outside the U.S., and it gave her a new perspective for her own life. "It made me respect everything that I have," said Daydrin. "People there did not have things that I have and they were still happy," she added.

The group traveled to several cities, including Hohoe, where the orphanage is located, Accra, Osu, Mori, Kumasi and Cape Coast. While tours included visits to a slave dungeon and a monkey sanctuary, the main focus of the trip was to deliver supplies and observe instruction at a school for orphaned youth.

"It went great," Daydrin said, adding that she even learned the native Twi language alphabet.

"Daydrin changed tremendously from the beginning of the trip to the end. The people were impressed with her and she really matured," said Dr. Frederic Robertson, YCLA Dean of Students, who headed the trip.

"She has a deep compassion for animals," he added, referring to their trip to the monkey sanctuary. "The monkeys were climbing all over her and she had no fears handling them."

Not surprisingly, Daydrin's career goals are to become a veterinarian. She graduates from YCLA next spring and hopes to attend Tuskegee University in Fall 2012.